



## The American Legion Department of Maine

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### Weekly Update



January 19, 2007

**If you lead through fear you will have little respect,  
but if you lead through respect you will have little to fear.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

**Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:**

**Winthrop Post 40**

**Wiscasset Post 54**

**Millinocket Post 80**

**Rangeley Post 120**

#### Membership

We have done spectacularly well in membership this year so far. We are number ONE in the North-east Region and number FIVE overall nationally. We are now over 95% of last year's membership and over 90% of our goal at National. It gives us all something to be proud of and our Department Commander Don Simoneau is particularly gleeful as he is able to hold his head high whenever the subject of membership comes up.

We should all be proud of our accomplishments and we should also all realize that the hardest part is in front of us. Those last few renewals in particular are important for the growth of The American Legion. Please ask whoever keeps track of membership at your post to let you and others know who they are so we can get in touch with them. We all know that personal contact is the most important ingredient in keeping members. The hard work that has gone into recruiting these members should be kept intact. Letters are okay, telephone calls are better, but personal face-to-face contact is the best. Let them know we care about them and want them to continue their membership and stand shoulder to shoulder with the rest of us to keep up the good work we do for the veterans of our country, the community in which we live, the children we provide for, and those who are currently serving in our military. We have a wonderful organization that does some great things for our nation and we can only keep up that tradition with a growing membership to carry on our values.

As has been said in the past, membership is a team effort and we need all we can get on that team to be successful. Together we can accomplish amazing things! Thank you.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**DEPARTMENT OF MAINE  
MID-WINTER CONFERENCE  
Friday Jan. 19 – Sunday Jan. 21  
MEETINGS – FIRESIDE INN, AUBURN**

**Friday, January 19, 2007**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 6:00 p.m.<br>Project) | Fun Patriotic Fashion Contest (Raise Money for Commanders                               |
| 6:30 p.m.             | Best Costume Individual Awards: 1 - 2 - 3 Awards<br>Unit / Post / SAL: 1 - 2 - 3 Awards |

**Saturday, January 20, 2007**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 7:00 – 9:00 a.m.                            | Coffee and donuts for sale  |
| 8:30 a.m. Opening ceremony                  | John Doyle, Dept. 2nd Vice Commander<br>Fallen Hero's Service, Legion Riders Post 132 |
| Welcome                                     | Donald Simoneau, Department Commander   |
| 9:00 a.m. Guest Speaker                     | Dave Rehbein, Candidate for National Commander  |
| 9:30 a.m. Service Office Update             | Robert "Ki" Owen, Department Service Officer  |
| 10:00 a.m. H2H Program                      | Kenneth Bouchard, Chairman H2H  |
| 10:15 a.m. Maine Blind Camp                 | Don Dinsmore/Brian Knowlton, Co-Chairmen  |
| 10:30 a.m. Welcome                          | Marlene Angers, Department Auxiliary President  |
| 10:30 a.m. Americanism                      | Andy Olsen, Department Americanism Officer  |
| 10:45 a.m. Special Olympics                 | Mickey Boutilier, Founder of Maine Special Olympics                                   |
| 11:00 a.m. You and the SAL                  | Don Allisot Jr., Detachment Commander, SAL  |
| 11:00 a.m. Lunch Break                      | Lunch Break at Hotel or on your own   |
| 1:00 p.m. Speaker                           | Military Conduct Code, EM1 (SW) Shawn Vance, USN                                      |
| 1:15 p.m. Legion Baseball                   | Charles Berube, Athletic Committee, Baseball Chairman                                 |
| 1:30 p.m. Boys State                        | Paul Jacques, Director 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Boys State                        |
| 1:45 p.m. Veterans No Boundaries            | Mrs. Jeri Greenwell, Auxiliary NECA,  |
| 2:00 p.m. Legion College                    | Bobby Richardson, Class of 2006 Graduate  |
| 2:15 p.m. Healing Field                     | Herman Wright III, PDC, Healing Field   |
| 2:45 p.m. Membership                        | Department Vice Cmdrs. Paul L'Heureux & John Doyle                                    |
| 3:10 p.m. Sweepstakes Drawing               | Prizes: \$3,500, \$1,000, \$500, \$200  |
| 3:15 p.m. Closing Ceremony<br>Announcements | Donald Simoneau, Dept. Commander and John Doyle, Dept. 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>Vice        |
| 3:30 p.m. Meeting                           | Past Commanders Club  |
| 5:30 p.m. Social                            |   |
| 6:30 p.m. Banquet                           |   |
| 7:30 p.m. Guest Speaker                     | Dave Rehbein, Candidate for National Commander  |

**Sunday, January 21, 2007**

7:00 a.m. Coffee and donuts  
8:30 a.m. Department Executive Committee

**Harvard Gives Federal Hospitals Top Grades**

WASHINGTON – A comprehensive study by Harvard Medical School concludes that federal hospitals, including those run by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), provide the best care available anywhere for some of the most common life-threatening illnesses.

“This recognition by Harvard should assure veterans of the quality of VA’s world-class health care system,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson. “Veterans have earned only the best. And we can prove that’s exactly what VA is providing.”

The study was published December 11 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, a journal for health care professionals. Researchers looked at congestive heart failure, heart attack and pneumonia across the health care industry and found that patients in federal facilities are more likely to receive high-quality care than those in for-profit hospitals.

Dr. Michael J. Kussman, VA’s Acting Under Secretary for Health, said the report is the latest example of VA setting standards for health care in the United States.

“This study further demonstrates that VA is providing high quality health care to veterans,” Dr. Kussman said. “Our computerized system of electronic health records and performance measurement means that veterans are getting the top-level care and treatment they have earned through service to our country.”

The study found that hospitals operated by the federal government and the military received higher performance ratings than other hospitals studied. A large percentage of federal hospitals are operated by VA.

“This suggests that lessons learned from (VA’s) decades-long experience in quality improvement deserve further study,” said Dr. Bruce Landon of Harvard, the study’s lead author.

The study assessed the quality of care for congestive heart failure, acute myocardial infarction – commonly referred to as heart attack -- and pneumonia in more than 4,000 hospitals in the United States.

The Harvard Medical School study is the latest recognition of the high quality of VA health care. In 2006, VA received a prestigious “Innovations in American Government” Award from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government for its advanced electronic health records and performance measurement system.

### **Healing Field**

The Healing Field project of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Maine is under way attempting to purchase 25,000 American flags to decorate our state capitol as well as travel down the turnpike all the way to New Hampshire this upcoming Memorial Day. There is a new web site for this at: [www.healingfield.org/maine07](http://www.healingfield.org/maine07) All the proceeds of this project will go toward benefiting veterans in Maine. Please take a minute or two to visit this exceptional web site.

**Donations**

THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Joseph Baker, Norway Post 82              | \$5.00 – Commander’s Project             |
| Asbury Ivey, Dayton Post 177              | \$10.00 – Commander’s Project            |
| Lew & Wendy Curtis                        | \$100.00 – Commander’s Project           |
| American Legion, 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | \$200.00 – Commander’s Project           |
| Belfast Post 43                           | \$300.00 – Commander’s Project           |
| Ellsworth Post 207 (\$1 per member)       | \$410.00 – Commander’s Project           |
| Richmond Post 132                         | \$250.00 – Commander’s Project           |
| Richmond Post 132                         | \$500.00 – VETAID                        |
| Richmond Post 132                         | \$500.00 – Maine Special Olympics        |
| Richmond Post 132                         | \$500.00 – Maine Blind Camp              |
| Richmond Post 132                         | \$500.00 – Homeless Veterans             |
| Livermore Falls Unit 10                   | \$50.00 – Special Olympics (Lobster Dip) |

**Thank You**

To Legion Family Members:

Thank you for all the get-well cards, e-mails, and phone calls I received following my recent surgery. Again showing the Legion family is still number one.

Dave Cullens, Past Department Commander  
Orono Post 84

**Directory Change**

**Pg. 47** Until further notice A. Ken Plourde, 146 Sparrow Dr., Augusta 04330 will assume the duties of adjutant of Augusta Post 2.

**Kudos**

Richmond Post 132 for their donation of \$500 to the National Child Welfare Foundation.

**What’s Happening?**

**Special Olympics Winter Games:** Jan. 29 – 31, 2007, Sugarloaf USA.

**Valentine's at Togus:** Feb. 14, volunteers are needed to visit the wards and distribute goodies to the patients. Costumes are optional.

**40/8 Washington's Birthday 2007:** Feb. 16-17, Best Western- Merry Manor, 700 Main St, So Portland. For more information contact Dick Prince at 428-3737 or [chiefw4@aol.com](mailto:chiefw4@aol.com)

**Belfast Post 43:** Feb. 24, 5 – 7 p.m., public supper with a chili cook-off. \$6 Proceeds will go to benefit Maine Special Olympics. FMI contact Betty Seeley 338-4050.

### District Meetings

**13<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 4, Bangor Post 12, 12 noon lunch, 1 p.m. mtg.

**16<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 4, Van Buren Post 49, 1 p.m. dinner, Four Chaplains, with 17<sup>th</sup> District.

**17<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 4, Van Buren Post 49, 1 p.m. dinner, Four Chaplains, with 16<sup>th</sup> District.

**8<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 8, Topsham Post 202, 6:30 p.m.

**3<sup>rd</sup> District:** Feb. 11, Lisbon Post 158, 1 p.m. Four Chaplains, 2 p.m. mtg.

**4<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 11, Farmington Post 28, 2 p.m.

**7<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 11, Damariscotta Post 42, 2 p.m.

**15<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 11, Pembroke Post 59, Oratorical, dinner, 2 p.m.

**12<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 12, Ellsworth Post 63, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.

**10<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 12, Skowhegan Post 16, 6 p.m.

**14<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 17, Brownville Jct. Post 92, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 p.m. mtg.

**5<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 20, Rumford Post 24, Nominations, 7 p.m.

### Sick Call

Frank Barclay, Augusta Post 2 adjutant, 170 Lake Shore Road, Leeds 04263

Nancy Dacar, Westbrook Post 197 adjutant, 4 Plymouth Road, So. Portland 04106

### Condolences

Clinton Knowlton, Past Androscoggin County Commander (92 – 93) of Lewiston Post 22, recently passed away. Cards can be sent to his sister Edith Lemieux, 29 Rita Ave., Lewiston 04240.

### Sons of the American Legion Detachment News

I want to thank those squadrons that continued to go after those 2006 renewals. Although it was late, the Detachment of Maine reached their goal of 100% membership before December 31<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations Joe Cooper, the Detachment posted 100.12% membership in 2006.

The Adopt-a-Vet Program was sent to all squadrons. This is a very simple program that has the opportunity to enhance veteran's lives. All a squadron needs to do is ask their post if they know of a veteran that may need a helping hand. I know that most posts have active Service Officers to assist veterans in their areas as best they can. I also know that there are needs a veteran may have that are small but could have a positive impact on that veteran. This may be a ride to the supermarket, mowing the lawn, splitting the wood for winter or even washing windows. This is another avenue that both the post and squadron could team up on to assist their veterans even greater than they do now.

The Lobster Raffle tickets have been mailed and hopefully we are going to support this as well as we always have. All proceeds go directly to the veteran's of Maine. Tickets are \$1.00 apiece or six for \$5.00. 1<sup>st</sup> prize is a Lobster Bake for 50 people anywhere in Maine or \$800.00 in cash, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is \$75.00 worth of Lobsters. Houlton Squadron 47 has already sold their allotment of tickets and have been sent more. I guess they are looking for the prize for the squadron that sells the most tickets.

Thanks Guys, just contact Joe Cooper if you need more. See you at Mid- Winter Conference.

Don Allisot  
Detachment Commander

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor  
Department Adjutant

**DEPARTMENT OF MAINE  
THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**PAST COMMANDERS CLUB**

It is with great pride and pleasure that we the membership of Post # \_\_\_\_\_ submit the names of all of our living Past Commanders for membership to the Past Commanders Club. Along with the names, we have enclosed the annual dues of \$2.00 per member with the understanding that this will continue to provide two (2) \$500.00 scholarships. The recipient must be the son/daughter, grandson/granddaughter of a member of The American Legion.

Membership in the Past Commanders Club goes from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Post Adjutant

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE**

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**SUBMIT TO:**

**Paul L'Heureux  
12 Sherwood Dr.  
Auburn, Maine 04210**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

**PAST COMMANDERS CLUB**